

Important addresses/phone numbers

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| Police emergency number | 110 |
| Police Department of Nordenham Mr. Thöle Walter-Rathenau-Str. 4 | 04731 / 9981-241 |
| Police Department of Brake Mr. Matthiesen Schrabberdeich 39 | 04401 / 935-131 |
| Advisory bureau LaWeGa, Landkreis Wesermarsch gegen Gewalt an Frauen – <i>Rural District of Wesermarsch against violence against women</i> | <i>District House - Kreishaus, room 206</i> |
| • consultation without appointment | Mo. 10 a.m. – 12 a.m. |
| • Appointments by agreement through LaWeGa | 04401 / 927-436 |
| or the Office for Women - Frauenbüro | 04401 / 927-366 |
| Autonomes Frauenhaus <i>Autonomous Women's Refuge</i> Oldenburg | 0441 / 47981 |
| <i>Women's Refuge – Frauenhaus</i> AWO Delmenhorst | 04221 / 968181 |
| Autonomes Frauenhaus <i>Autonomous Women's Refuge</i> Bremen | 0421 / 349573 |
| <i>Women's Refuge – Frauenhaus</i> AWO Bremen | 0421 / 239611 |
| <i>Women's Refuge - Frauenhaus</i> Bremerhaven | 0471 / 83001 |
| Local Court / Family Division Bürgermeister-Müller-Str. 34 26919 Brake | 04401 / 109-147 |
| Local Court / Family Division Bahnhofstraße 56 26954 Nordenham | 04731 / 946-0 |
| <i>Association of assistance for crime victims – WEISSER RING e.V.</i> | 04731 / 204376 |

Further addresses can be obtained in the *Office for Women – Frauenbüro* – of the Rural District of Wesermarsch,
Tel. 04401 / 927-288

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INFORMATION

**AGAINST VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN**



Issued by the Rural District of Wesermarsch,
Office for Women

Brake 2010

What can you do?

This flyer is aimed at women who experience violence in marriage, partnership or by a strange man. It contains information about the Law on Protection against Violence – **Gewaltschutzgesetz**. This law improves the legal possibilities for women to protect themselves against acts of violence, if they live with the perpetrator in a shared home or if the perpetrator stalks or molests them.

If you live with a violent (husband) man in a shared home, you may leave home and seek refuge with friends or in the women's refuge; or you stay in the home and make use of the possibilities of the Law on protection against Violence.

Even if you do not live with the perpetrator in a shared home, you may apply for protection orders under the Law on protection against Violence. This falls always within the competence of the local court's family division, even if the perpetrator is no relative of you.

In an urgent threat situation you may inform the police at the emergency number 110. In cases of domestic violence the police officers are obliged to gain an overview, to preserve evidence, and to estimate the situation. If the situation is considered to be dangerous for the woman, the police has the right to banish the violent man for up to **14 days** from the home. This will happen within the framework of a sending-off under the Lower Saxonian Law on Warding-off Dangers (*Gefahrenabwehrgesetz*). A detailed record on the operation will be drawn up.

An application for a ban on contact and allocation of the home for your sole use can provide longer-term protection.

Legal basis is the „Law on Improvement of Protection Under Civil Law in Cases of Violent Acts and Stalking as well as on Facilitation of Allocation of the Marital Home in Case of Separation“ (*Law on Protection from Violence - Gewaltschutzgesetz*). The local court's family division makes a decision on the basis of your statement and further pieces of evidence, e.g. a medical certificate or a police report, if necessary, in summary proceedings.

The court may decide that the perpetrator will have to move out of the home and to leave it to you alone, even if he is the tenant or owner. In this event the allocation of the home for your sole use will be limited to six months. But a once only renewal will be possible.

Besides, the family division may after examination of the circumstances decree:

- **that the perpetrator is not allowed to approach the home within a determined radius.**
- **that the perpetrator is also not allowed to go to other places to be determined (workplace, kindergarten/nursery school, school etc.).**
- **that the perpetrator is not allowed to contact you by phone or in writing.**

Under the Law on Protection from Violence the perpetrator cannot plead that he committed the offence under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Any violation of the court order is an offence and will be punished with imprisonment of up to one year or with a fine.

Do you have to observe any time limits?

Immediately after the act of violence you may file with the local court's family division the application for allocation of the home for your sole use.

If a sending-off (*Platzverweis*) was pronounced by the police, you can use the time in order to bring about a decision of the competent court.

The allocation of the home for your sole use has to be applied for by you with the court no later than three months after the offence. However, it is always advisable to file both the application for a ban on contact and that for the allocation of the home as soon as possible after the offence so that the court will consider it to be urgent.

Who can file the application?

You as the person concerned may file the application on your own, entrust with it a person enjoying your confidence or have yourself represented by a lawyer.

Advisable is the representation by a lawyer. For the lawyer's charges and the cost of the proceedings you may apply for legal aid, if you have low income.